



The High School
Leckhampton

Charging & Remissions Policy

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1. Aims

The High School Leckhampton recognises the valuable contribution that the wide range of additional activities, including trips, clubs and residential experiences can make towards pupils' education.

The school aims to promote and provide such activities both as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for the pupils of the school and as additional optional activities.

Our school aims to:

- Have robust, clear processes in place for charging and remissions
- Clearly set out the types of activity that can be charged for and when charges will be made
- Offer a range of activities and visits whilst minimising the financial barriers that may present some pupils from taking full advantage of these opportunities

2. Legislation and Guidance

This policy is based on advice from the Department for Education (DfE) on [charging for school activities](#) and [the Education Act 1996](#), sections 449-462 of which set out the law on charging for school activities in England. Academies are required to comply with this Act through their funding agreements.

This policy complies with our Funding Agreement and Articles of Association.

3. Definitions

- **Charge:** a fee payable for specifically defined activities
- **Remission:** the cancellation of a charge which would normally be payable

4. Roles and responsibilities

4.1 The Governing Body

The Governing Body has overall responsibility for approving the charging and remissions policy, but can delegate this to a committee, an individual governor or the Headteacher. The Governing Body also has overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of this policy and approving it on an annual basis.

4.2 Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for ensuring staff are familiar with the charging and remissions policy, and that it is being applied consistently.

4.3 Staff

Staff are responsible for:

- Implementing the charging and remissions policy consistently
- Notifying the Headteacher of any specific circumstances which they are unsure about or where they are not certain if the policy applies

The school will provide staff with appropriate training in relation to this policy and its implementation.

4.4 Parents/Carers

Parents/Carers are expected to notify staff or the Headteacher of any concerns or queries regarding the charging and remissions policy.

5. Where Charges Cannot be Made

Below we set out what we cannot charge for:

5.1 Education

- Admission applications
- Education provided during school hours (including the supply of any materials, books, instruments or other equipment)
- Education provided outside school hours if it is part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education

- Instrumental or vocal tuition, for pupils learning individually or in groups, unless the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent/carer
- Entry for a prescribed public examination if the pupil has been prepared for it at the school
- Examination re-sit(s) if the pupil is being prepared for the re-sit(s) at the school

5.2 Transport

- Transporting registered pupils to or from the school premises, where the local authority has a statutory obligation to provide transport
- Transporting registered pupils to other premises where the Governing Body or local authority has arranged for pupils to be educated
- Transport that enables a pupil to meet an examination requirement when he or she has been prepared for that examination at the school
- Transport provided in connection with an educational visit

5.3 Residential visits

- Education provided on any visit that takes place during school hours
- Education provided on any visit that takes place outside school hours if it is part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
 - Supply teachers to cover for those teachers who are absent from school accompanying pupils on a residential visit

6. Where Charges Can Be Made

The Governing Body therefore reserves the right to make charges in the following circumstances for activities organised by the school:

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment, where the child's parent/carer wishes them to own them
- Optional extras (*see section 6.1*)
- The full cost to each student of optional additional activities which take place outside school hours.
- Music and vocal tuition, in limited circumstances (*see section 6.2*)
- Use of Community facilities
- Examination fees: Responsibility for the payment of examination entry fees in cases where a student has not been prepared by the school for the examination will rest with the parents/carers. In all cases, entries for non-prescribed examinations will be the responsibility of parents/carers. If a student fails, without good reason, to complete the examination requirements for a public examination for which the school has paid an entry fee, then the Governing Body may recover the fee from the parents/carers. Any retaken examinations will incur entry fees.

6.1 Optional Extras

We are able to charge for activities known as 'optional extras'. In these cases, schools can charge for providing materials, books, instruments or equipment. The following are optional extras:

- Education provided outside of school time that is not part of:
 - The national curriculum
 - A syllabus for a prescribed public examination that the pupil is being prepared for at the school
 - Religious education
- Examination entry fee(s) if the registered pupil has not been prepared for the examination(s) at the school
- Transport (other than transport that is required to take the pupil to school or to other premises where the local authority or Governing Body has arranged for the pupil to be provided with education)
- Board and lodging for a pupil on a residential visit
- Extended day services offered to pupils (such as breakfast clubs, after-school clubs, supervised homework sessions)

When calculating the cost of optional extras, an amount may be included in relation to:

- Any materials, books, instruments or equipment provided in connection with the optional extra
- The cost of buildings and accommodation
- Non-teaching staff
- Teaching staff engaged under contracts for services purely to provide an optional extra (including supply teachers engaged specifically to provide the optional extra)
- The cost, or an appropriate proportion of the costs, for teaching staff employed to provide tuition in playing a musical instrument, or vocal tuition, where the tuition is an optional extra

Any charge made in respect of individual pupils will not be greater than the actual cost of providing the optional extra activity, divided equally by the number of pupils participating.

Any charge will not include an element of subsidy for any other pupils who wish to take part in the activity but whose parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay the full charge.

In cases where a small proportion of the activity takes place during school hours, the charge cannot include the cost of alternative provision for those pupils who do not wish to participate.

Parental agreement is necessary for the provision of an optional extra which is to be charged for.

6.2 Music Tuition

Schools can charge for vocal or instrumental tuition provided either individually or to groups of pupils, provided that the tuition is provided at the request of the pupil's parent/carer.

Charges may not exceed the cost of the provision, including the cost of the staff giving the tuition.

Charges cannot be made:

- If the teaching is an essential part of the national curriculum
- For a pupil who is looked after by a local authority

6.3 Residential visits

We can charge for board and lodging on residential visits, but the charge must not exceed the actual cost.

7. Voluntary Contributions

As an exception to the requirements set out in section 5 of this policy, the school is able to ask for voluntary contributions from parents/carers to fund activities during school hours which would not otherwise be possible.

Some activities for which the school may ask parents/carers for voluntary contributions include:

- The cost of materials, ingredients, equipment (or the provision of them by parents/carers) for subjects where such a charge would be appropriate.
- If an event is deemed an optional add-on, rather than directly required for the examination syllabus, all associated costs may be charged to parents/carers

There is no obligation for parents/carers to make any contribution, and no child will be excluded from an activity if their parents/carers are unwilling or unable to pay.

If the school is unable to raise enough funds for an activity or visit then it will be cancelled.

8. Activities We Charge For

In certain practical subjects, parents/carers will be invited to pay for or to supply ingredients/materials on the basis that the finished product will be the property of the student.

9. Remissions

In some circumstances the school may not charge for items or activities as set out in section 6 and 8 of this policy. This will be at the discretion of the Senior Leadership Team and will depend on the activity in question.

The school may wish to remit in full or in part the cost of activities for particular groups of parents/carers, for example, in the case of family hardship. However, the school does not have to offer any remission for hardship for an activity that is outside of normal lesson time and not a compulsory part of the curriculum.

9.1 Remissions for Residential Visits

Where the parents/carers of a pupil are in receipt of income support or family credit, the school may offer to remit in full the cost of full board and lodging for any residential activity which is deemed to take place in school hours and where it forms an essential part of the examination syllabus.

10. Monitoring Arrangements

The CFO of the Trust, with the Finance Governor, monitors charges and remissions and ensures these comply with this policy.

The policy will be reviewed annually and at every review will be approved by the Governing Body.

Rights Respecting School Statement

The contents of this policy have been reviewed taking into account The High School Leckhampton's responsibilities as a Rights Respecting School. In particular, our commitment to the following articles of the Convention of The Rights of The Child:

Article 28: (Right to Education): *The Convention places a high value on education. Young people should be encouraged to reach the highest level of education of which they are capable.*

Article 29: (Goals of Education): *Children's education should develop each child's personality, talents and abilities to the fullest. It should encourage children to respect others, human rights and their own and other cultures. It should also help them learn to love peacefully, protect the environment and respect other people.*